

Modern Language Center (MLC) (AM/LANG 250) Intermediate High Modern Standard Arabic

Program: MLC Jordan

Total Hours: 105

Recommended Credits: 6

Primary Discipline: Suggested Cross Listings: Arabic Language

Language of Instruction: Arabic

Prerequisites: Requirements: ACTFL Intermediate-High or Advanced-Low level or equivalent.

Description

This course is designed for students who are proficient in using complex grammatical structures and have active vocabulary control, allowing them to engage in extended conversations and write on a range of advanced topics. Students at this level can read and understand authentic Arabic texts of moderate complexity and recognize how root and pattern systems function to support comprehension and expression.

The course develops grammatical precision and control through essay-length writing and discussion of sophisticated topics. Vocabulary expansion and stylistic accuracy are emphasized to help students communicate clearly and confidently in both spoken and written Arabic. Cultural, historical, and social themes are integrated to deepen students' awareness of Jordanian society and broader Arab contexts.

Objectives

- Demonstrate advanced reading comprehension and critical understanding of texts.
- Expand mastery of Arabic sentence structures and the verb system.
- Write essays and compositions with advanced syntactic variety and coherence.
- Read authentic Arabic materials at natural speed with good comprehension and limited need for assistance.
- Understand news broadcasts and media aimed at native speakers.
- Communicate effectively with native speakers, including those unfamiliar with foreign learners.
- Participate in complex discussions on professional, social, and cultural issues using accurate vocabulary and structure.
- Compose cohesive paragraphs using all major tenses and grammatical structures.
- Describe, compare, and analyze complex topics confidently.
- Read and interpret an advanced Arabic novel.
- Progress from ACTFL Intermediate-High or Advanced-Low to Advanced-Mid level

Course Requirements

This intensive course requires thorough preparation and active participation. Students are expected to engage in discussions, complete listening and reading assignments, and practice writing and speaking daily. Attendance is essential, as students are encouraged to explore Jordanian culture through field visits, lectures, and structured interactions with native speakers.

Assignments include a mid-term teaching project, a comprehensive final exam, and a final written paper of at least ten pages. Students must also deliver a ten-minute oral presentation summarizing their written work and using the majority of the vocabulary learned during the course.

Grading

- Participation: 20%
- Homework: 15%
- Presentations: 5%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Mid-Term Project: 10%
- Mid-Term Exam: 5%
- Final Exam: 5%
- Final Oral Interview Exam: 10%
- Final Written Assignment: 20%

Readings

My Arabic Language, Levels 5–6 (forthcoming publication). Kanafani, Ghassan. *Men in the Sun*. Mu'asasat al-Abhath al-Arabiyya, 2002.

Additional Resources

Supplementary materials include authentic 2–3 minute video clips from Arabic news sources such as Al Arabiya and Al Jazeera, used to reinforce grammar, vocabulary, and cultural discussions covered in class.

Outline of Course Content

Each topic is studied for approximately two weeks during a regular semester or one week in the accelerated summer term.

- 1 Topic 1: Daily Life in a Different Culture – review of key grammar structures and complex sentence forms.
- 2 Topic 2: Women in Jordan – advanced negation, verb forms (3,6,2,5), passive voice, gender and authority, and social development.
- 3 Topic 3: Children in Jordanian Society – subjunctive and jussive verbs, complex media sentences, child labor, poverty, and inherited stigma.
- 4 Topic 4: Regional History – reviewing grammatical distinctions, transitive/intransitive verbs, comparisons, and the history of Greater Syria post-Ottoman era.
- 5 Topic 5: Prominent Arab Figures – conditional forms, verb patterns (7,8,4,10), discussions on leadership, religion, and social influence.
- 6 Topic 6: Fortune-telling in Arab Society – interrogative and emphatic structures, horoscopes, astrology, and faith in media contexts.
- 7 Topic 7: Final Review – comprehensive review and oral practice for long-term mastery.

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